

Rev. prf

K-25 23

Houston House  
Queen Street, Chestertown  
post 1771

William Houston, staymaker, purchased fifty feet of lot No. 20 (adjoining lot No. 24) in 1771 and built the house which he and his descendants would own until 1908.<sup>1</sup> His house consisted of a three-bay, double-pile, two-story brick residence with one story brick kitchen wing on the northeast side. The plan consisted of the entry/stairhall with two rooms on the southwest and the kitchen on the northeast. Both principal rooms contained corner fireplaces, the larger having raised and recessed panel chimney breast similar to the treatment in the den at Aspendale, Kent Co. Delaware, built at the same time. All interior partitions were and still are vertical beaded boards.

When he died in 1782, his wife Susannah Wickes was administrator along with other relatives, Simon and Joseph Wickes. His inventory included items that were typical for a well furnished house of the day, and four slaves. It totaled @332.7.6, a sizeable estate for a tradesman.<sup>2</sup>

William and Susannah left two sons, Benjamin b. 1766, and James. James apparently acquired the house, for in a deed for the adjoining property in 1788, the property begins "at the southwest corner of Mr. Houston's house on Queen St."<sup>3</sup> ... and again in 1802 James Houston acquires 21.5 feet of the adjoining property.<sup>4</sup> In 1806 James was appointed Judge of the U.S. District Court for Maryland by President Thomas Jefferson. In 1814 Judge Houston acquired the farm later known as Airy

Hill, which he held until his death. He married Augusta Chambers, daughter of General Benjamin Chambers and had two daughters, Augusta and Elizabeth. When his inventory was appraised, it included such items as "Passage & stair carpet + rods" and a "dressing room looking glass," items which could have been in either the Queen Street house or Airy Hill. There were many farm animals and seven slaves, most of which would have been located on the farm. His inventory totaled \$3,959.32, an indication of his financial success and position in the community.<sup>5</sup>

James probably did little to improve his dwellings, as both were relatively new and would not need any more than routine maintenance. After his death, his widow re-married James Bowers. The Airy Hill Farm was sold, but the Queen Street house was to remain in the family. In 1841, the property was listed under the name of "James Houston heirs." The assessment states it was in good repair and included a stable on part of lot 27, across the street, both occupied by Rev'd Webster. It descended to his daughters, Elizabeth, who married Thomas Patton of Philadelphia, and Augusta, who married John Bowers Eccleston, attorney of Chestertown. Elizabeth sold her half interest to her brother-in-law and he in turn bequeathed it to Augusta, who in turn left it to their son James H. Eccleston. At the time of the sale of Elizabeth's half, (1859),<sup>6</sup> the house was "rented to and occupied by Richard Hynson," another prominent attorney who was to build a brick house on Water Street adjacent "River House" in 1870.

Since the house remained rented for most, if not all, of the time, it is unlikely little was done to the house until Augusta Eccleston's son and heir

James Houston Eccleston sold the property in 1908 to Dr. Henry G. Simpers.<sup>7</sup>

Dr. Simpers contracted with Walter T. Pippin, contractor and builder, to remodel and enlarge the house for use not only as residence, but with an office for his medical practice. At this juncture, a second story was added to the old one-story kitchen wing, the door and window were changed to two windows and the front entrance door was moved about one foot to the right and given an architrave. A porch and porte cochere were wrapped around three sides of the two story section. Three dormers were added to the roof and the roof was given a wide overhang. A lean-to kitchen was also built behind the former kitchen.

Inside, the old stair was removed and replaced with a typical heavy stair of the period. New floors were applied over the old and a new heating system and plumbing were installed. The house remained essentially the same until it was acquired by Carolene Hynson Miller, granddaughter of Richard Hynson, who had rented it 117 years before.<sup>8</sup>

Mrs. Miller remodeled and up-dated the building extensively in 1976, cleaning the accumulated whitewash and paint from the exterior and removing the porches and adding an extension to the kitchen. She converted the office into a dining room after removing the chimney flue. After her death, it was given to Washington College, and soon thereafter sold to the present owners. The new owners have gradually improved the house by re-building a stair which is closer to the period of the house, remodeled the dining room by re-building a fireplace with flanking cupboards and overmantel paneling. The master bedroom with adjoining

dressings room and bath were re-arranged and the 1908 bedroom was given a fireplace and bookshelves. Most recently, the 1908 overhang of the roof was removed and the dormers were remodeled to appear earlier.

1. Kent Co. Land Records, Lib. DD 3, fol. 413.
2. Kent Co. Inventories, Lib. 8, fol. 233.
3. Kent Co. Land Records, Lib. EF 7, fol. 286.
4. Kent Co. Land Records, Lib. TW 2, fol. 104.
5. Kent Co. Inventories, Lib. 16, fol. 142.
6. Kent Co. Land Records, Lib. JKH 1, fol. 679.
7. Kent Co. Land Records, Lib. JTD 17, fol. 116.
8. Kent Co. Land Records, Lib. EHP 68, fol. 424.

16-23 Houston House  
113 Queen Street  
Chestertown  
private

1770's

The earliest of three essentially Federal brick townhouses built on lower Queen Street, this house is of particular interest for ~~3~~ its Georgian roof pitch; both ~~other~~ of its contemporary neighbors have ~~very~~ steep roofs. It was built for Doctor William Houston, probably before the Revolution, and is presently in process of partial restoration.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

*Houston Home**K-23*

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

*113 Queen Street*

CITY, TOWN

*Chestertown*

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

*First*

STATE

*Maryland*

COUNTY

*Kent***3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

*Caroline Hynson Miller*

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

*113 Queen Street*

CITY, TOWN

*Chestertown*

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

*Maryland 21620***5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. *Office of the County Clerk*Liber #: *EMP 68*Folio #: *424*

STREET &amp; NUMBER

*Kent County Court House*

CITY, TOWN

*Chestertown*

STATE

*Maryland***6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

*none*

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

K-23

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED though	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	restoration in progress	

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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113 Queen Street is on the southeast side of Queen Street at its intersection with Church Street in Chestertown. It is situated on the northern end of Town Lot 25. It is quite similar to its immediate neighbors to the south, 111 and 109.

It is a 2½-story, 3-bay brick Georgian/Federal style house with a low-pitched "A" roof. It has a 2-story, 2-bay wing added to the northeast (left) gable end. The brickwork in both sections is laid in Flemish bond and has been whitewashed. There is a molded brick water table on the original section.

The entrance is in the extreme northeast (left) bay of the original structure and is framed by narrow pilasters and a low relief cornice. All of the windows in the original section are 2/2 double hung sash, and have wood lintels and sills and louvered shutters.

An aluminum box cornice has been built over the original. It has a deep soffit and executes a short return along the gable ends. There is a large overhang at the eaves. There are two gabled dormers. The roof is covered with composition shingles. There is a large chimney within the southeast (right) gable end. The main section of the house is two full bays deep, deeper than either 111 or 109, its Federal style neighbors; its roof pitch is noticeably less steep than 111's or 109's also, close to the Georgian norm of around 30 degrees.

A 2/2 window occupies the front bay on the first story of the southeast (right) gable end; a door is in the rear bay. There are two 2/2 windows on the second story and two small 4-pane attic windows in the gable.

A single story wood porch with a flat roof runs across the front and around the southeast gable end, where it broadens into a port cachere. It is presently being removed.

The 2-bay wing is set approximately one brick-length back from the original section and sits slightly lower. It is one bay deep. It has two 2/2 double hung sash windows on each story of the facade, and all have segmental arches, wood sills, and louvered shutters. There are no dormers. There is a chimney, smaller than that of the original section, within the northwest gable end. There is a high stuccoed water table on the northeast gable end and no windows.

There are several frame additions in the rear. There is also a small "A" roof brick out building which looks to be of eighteenth century construction.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-23

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1771-1788

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is one of three Federal style houses built adjacent to one another toward the southwest end of Queen Street. Both style and documentary evidence suggest 113 Queen is the earliest of the three: its style is a marriage of Georgian and Federal features; the documents show it could have been built as early as 1771.

The restrained entrance and window trim is Federal; the pitch of the roof and brickwork--laid in Flemish Bond--are Georgian. The unusually large overhang of the roof, an even later characteristic, is probably not original; it may be as recent as the aluminum that has been put over the cornice. The 2/2 window pane arrangement is probably not original either, in the original section or the wing.

William Houston bought fifty feet of Town Lot 25, measured from the Lot 24 line, in 1771 from George W. Forrester for £27, 10 shillings. He may have built 113 soon afterward, but at least by 1788 when reference to its being in existence is made in a deed involving the sale of the adjacent property, 111 Queen Street. The house and land descended to his son, James. James Houston bought an additional twenty-five feet from 111 Queen in 1802 from Margaret Forman for £80 to bring the property up to its present dimensions. (The additional property is not on the side of the house where the wing was added, so it is not a clue to the date of the addition.)

The present owner is process of having the house restored.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

A part of Town Lot 25, having a front on Queen Street of about 73 feet more or less, with a depth from a point of said lot of ground of 192 feet, 6 inches, and for the remainder of said lot a depth of about 130 feet, 6 inches, more or less.

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Robert Neill Historic Site Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust / Town of Chestertown

DATE

June, 1976

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## Title Search on 113 Queen Street

George W. Forrester, Jr. to William Houston DD 3 413 (1771) £27, 10 shillings  
(50 feet of Town Lot 25)

Property descends to James Houston. He buys 25 additional feet (from 111 Queen)  
in 1802. TW 2 104 £80.

James Houston died intestate. Property descends to Elizabeth Houston, who marries  
Thomas W. Patton.

Elizabeth F. Patton to John B. Eccleston JKH 1 679 (1859) \$700

John B. Eccleston wills property to Augusta Eccleston Wills JF 1 184 (1859)

Augusta Eccleston wills property to James Houston Eccleston Wills EC 1 284 (1862; probated  
1878)

James Houston Eccleston to Dr. Henry S. Simpers JTD 17 116 (1908)

etc.

This is a hand-drawn map of a neighborhood in Chester, Pennsylvania. The map shows a grid of streets and several landmarks. A circled address 'K-23' is located on the intersection of Church St and High St. Other streets shown include Washington Ave, College Ave, U.S. 213, Kent St, and various residential streets like Byford Drive and Waldo Drive. Landmarks such as a cemetery, a school, and a river are also indicated. The map is oriented with North at the top.

**Streets:**

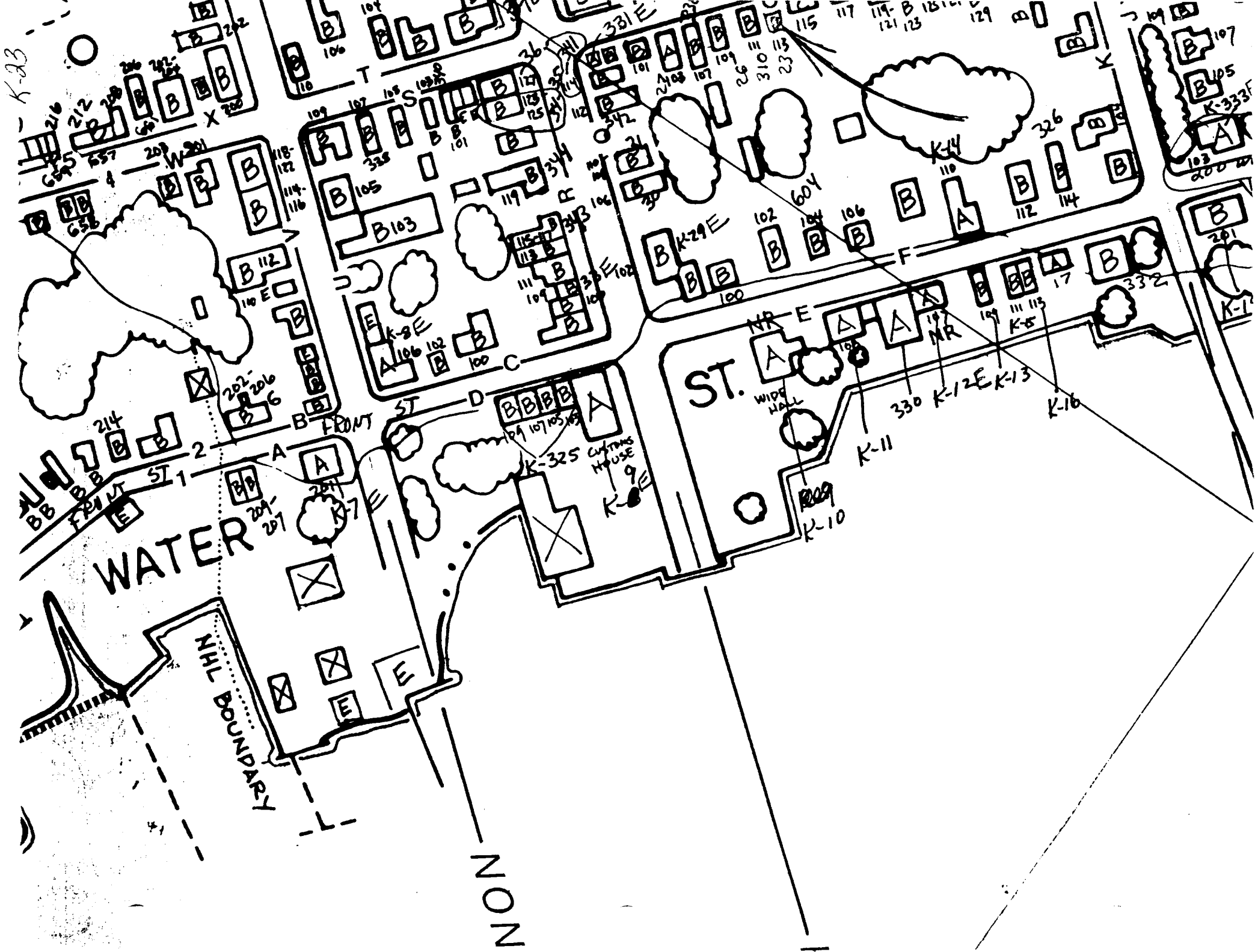
- Washington Ave
- College Ave
- U.S. 213
- Kent St
- Byford Drive
- Waldo Drive
- David Drive
- Barroll Drive
- High St
- Church St
- Maple St
- Riverside Terrace
- Philosophers Terrace
- Washington Campus
- College Campus
- Greenwood Valley
- Pine Valley
- Brown View Rd
- School St
- Byford Court
- Water Cannon
- Queen Lane
- Twilley Lane
- Cross St
- Spring St
- Row St
- Park Court St
- Mill St
- Kent St
- Calvert St
- Prospect St
- Poplar Rd
- Lynchburg St

**Landmarks:**

- Cemetery
- Vita Foods
- School
- River
- County Line
- PA Railroad

**Address:** K-23 (circled)

K-23



MOB

K-23

any idea of #s for houses here?

Chestertown



N. QUEEN STREET, CHESTERTOWN, MD

107 N. Queen St. K-338  
109 N. Queen St. K-26  
111 N. Queen St. - K-310

101 N. Queen St. K-340

103 N. Queen St. K-27

113 N. Queen St. - K-23



K 23 Houston House

113 Queen

1/77 W & S





K 23 Houston House  
113 Queen

1/77 WRS